



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – February 4, 2013

Transportation Committee

**Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Jim Redeker
Department of Transportation**

Proposed H.B. 6058 – An Act Studying and Improving Pedestrian Safety.

Since the enactment of Public Act 09-154 requiring Complete Streets, the Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) has established an internal committee to develop design guidelines to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

ConnDOT routinely studies pedestrian safety as part of all roadway corridor planning studies we administer or that the Regional Planning Agencies administer on their behalf. These plans encompass a variety of corridor studies, namely Route 1 in Darien, Stamford and Greenwich; Route 3 in Rocky Hill; Route 6 in Bolton, Andover, Coventry and Columbia; Route 305 in Bloomfield, and Route 10 in Simsbury. There have also been more universal studies of pedestrian safety undertaken in the 2010 State Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) and the 2009 Connecticut Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan.

The purpose of a SHSP is to clearly identify the State's critical safety needs and direct allocated resources to achieve significant reductions in fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. Bicycle and Pedestrians are also noted in this plan. The SHSP is currently under review and a new plan is expected in early 2014. The purpose of the 2009 Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was to provide direction for the Department in developing policy and pursuing initiatives to accommodate non-motorized transportation.

The Division of Traffic Engineering evaluates the safety of pedestrians on state highways; when specific requests for such an evaluation are forwarded to the Department. Additionally, projects are being pursued to update all of the state owned existing audible traffic control signals to make them compliant with new standards. Pedestrian ramps at those intersections will also be reconstructed to meet ADA requirements and anticipated Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) requirements. These projects are expected to be ready for construction in 2014.

Based on these recent studies, and on-going projects, the proposed bill as written may be unnecessary. If a statewide study is deemed necessary, it would be a sizable undertaking requiring review and analysis of both state and local transportation systems. The estimated cost of a study would be in the range of \$750,000 to \$1,000,000.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.